British assistance for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

1831. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Britain has agreed to extend support of about Rs. 1,555 crore (190 million pounds) for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan; and

(b) if so, the terms on which the aid was sought and granted, and how the funds are to be received and appropriated and through which agencies?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Department of International Development (DFID) of United Kingdom, alongwith the World Bank (WB) and European Commission (EC), have agreed to fund Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan as an ongoing programme, accepting the existing framework, guidelines and implementation mechanism of the programme, for a period of 4 years with funding of around Rs. 4700.00 crore, of which DFID will provide approximately Rs. 1554.00 crore as a grant.

Opening of IIT/IIM in Orissa

1832. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to open an NT or IIM in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the said institutes would be opened?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) In view of the announcement made by the Prime Minister on 15th August, 2003 that five new JITs will be set up by upgrading promising academic institutions, the Government has constituted an Expert Committee to identify such academic institutions. A number of proposals from various State Governments have been received by the Government and are under consideration of the Expert Committee. One of the proposals pertains to the upgradaton of University College of Engineering (UCE), Burla, Orissa. The Report of the Committee is awaited. So far as IIMs are concerned there is no proposal to open an IIM in Orissa.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.